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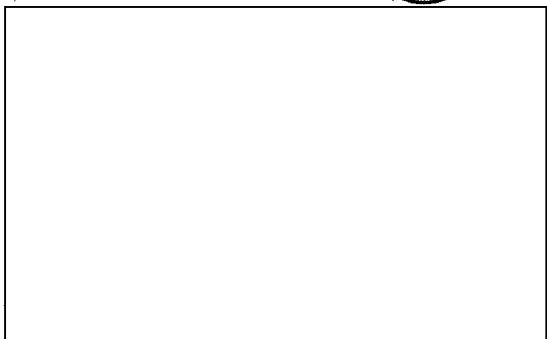


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NORTH KOREA: Limited Aims for Four-Party Talks

[redacted] the North views the plenary session this week in Geneva as symbolic rather than substantive, [redacted] *The North will avoid confrontation in favor of maintaining positive atmospherics for future dealings with the US.*

[redacted]
— *Regime officials may try to use their performance in Geneva to convince the broader international community that the North deserves increased aid and support.* [redacted]

Nonetheless, North Korea continues to emphasize that US troop withdrawal and a treaty with Washington are prerequisites for peace on the Peninsula *and is likely to raise these issues in its keynote address.* Official North Korean media recently have focused on dissolving the UN Command as a key step toward peace.

— *P'yongyang has not explicitly linked the UN issue to four-party talks but may be signaling the North's intent to add it to the agenda.* [redacted] [redacted]

Seoul apparently shares the North's view that the opening session will be pro forma. It has appointed a relatively inexperienced former Vice Foreign Minister—Lee Si-yong, current Ambassador to Paris—to head the South's delegation instead of a more senior negotiator. [redacted]